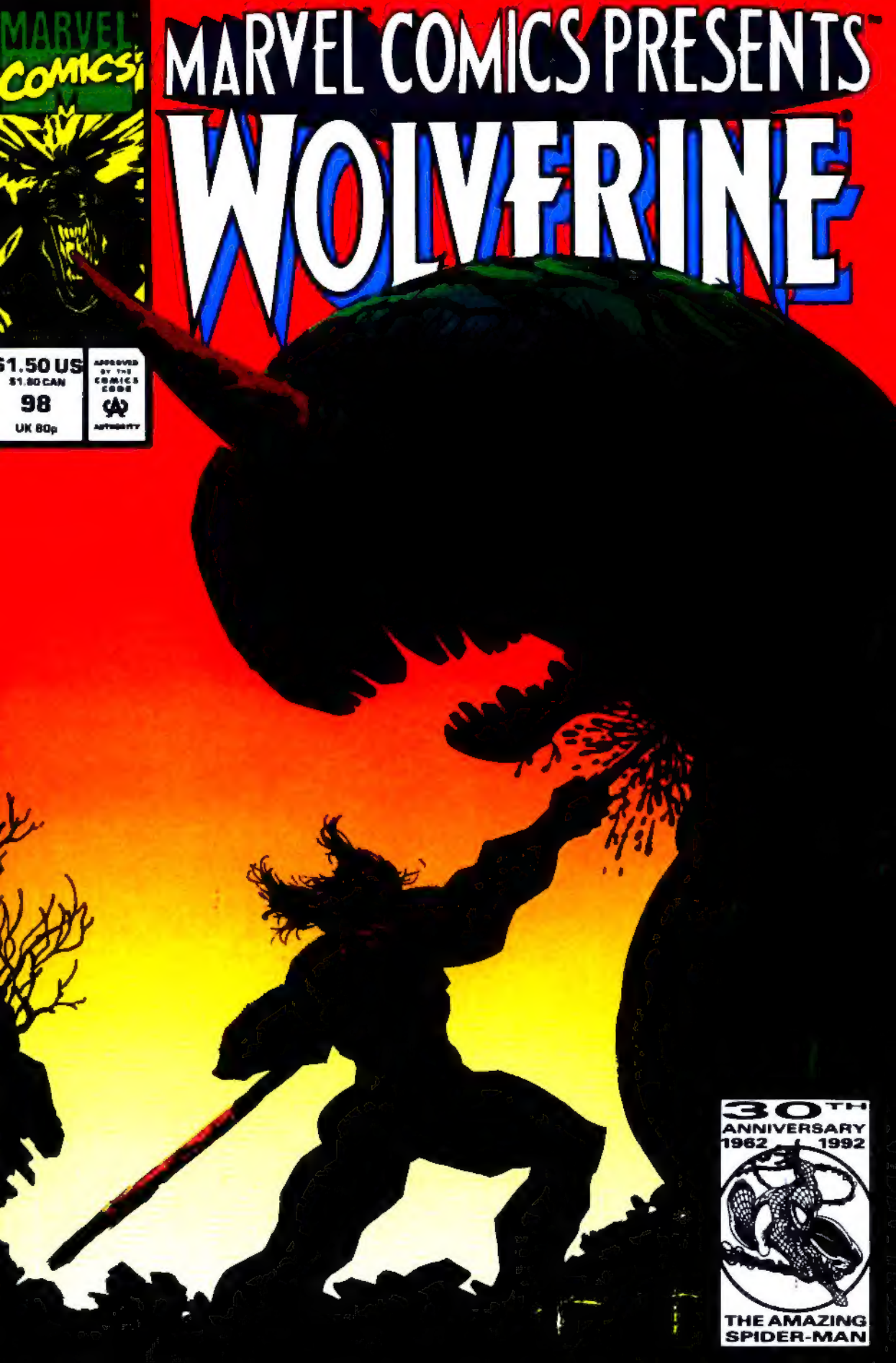
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
MARVEL COMICS!
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30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

WOLVERINE

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

WOLVERINE ..... pg. 1

WILD FRONTIER
Part 6 of 6
"FINAL FRONTIER"

Last issue, Logan made his way to the lair of the monster Uncegila...now, can he survive the final battle with the beast?

Writer — TIMOTHY TRUMAN
Penciler — TODD FOXX
Inker – GARY KWAPISZ
Letterer — MICHAEL HEISLER
Colorist —TOM SMITH

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT pg. 9

"WILD AT HEART"

Jack Russell, once held captive by the curse of the werewolf, now controls his transformation and his destiny... as the Werewolf by Night!

Writer — LEN KAMINSKI
Penciler — CLARK HAWBAKER
Inker — MARK MC KENNA
Letterer — TODD KLEIN
Colorist — TOM SMITH

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS Vol. 1, No. 98, 1992 [illegible] Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, [illegible] Publication Mailing, Hudson Group, Vice President, Publishing, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Post Master(send address [illegible] to: MARVEL Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $1.80 in Canada. [illegible] publication of names, [illegible] in this publication to persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. [illegible] MARVEL, WOLVERINE, and GHOST RIDER are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS c/o MARVEL COMICS SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

Dear Terry,

Re. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #92

1) Wolverine: Great ending. As in each and every chapter of "Blood Hungry," Peter and Sam have provided a classic story: thrills, laughs, chills and all of that stuff. Cyber is also a great foe, and I'd like to see him explored in another great serial—perhaps by this same team. It figures that "Blood Hungry" ends right at the time I'm actually starting to put Sam Kieth on the top of my best artists list. Great work. Overall grade: A+.

2)Beast: While I did enjoy the storyline immensely, I must now admit that the story started slouching in the middle and I got tired of looking at Jae Lee's angry-looking Beast. Good, though. Scott Lobdell's script on all eight chapters was excellent, and most of the art was good. I have nothing against Jae or Tim; I just feel that Hank should be happy—his outlook on life was never grim. Overall grade: A. I'd like to see Beast in a monthly series, hint, hint.

3) Ghost Rider/Cable: Still enjoying this piece of work. Howard Mackie's writing is great, and I'm beginning to believe that Guang Yap is one of 1991's talent finds. This guy can draw mutants and flameheads. How's that? Seriously, though, Guang's art is very, very good. He seems to have no problem with the designs of the characters, and his finished product is beginning to look like that of a polished pro. Good, Guang. Congrats to Mr. Mendez, too. Overall grade: Not as good as an A+, but not as low as an A. Somewhere between there.

4) Northstar: To me, this was another of those generic MCP stories. An eight-pager that shows hardly any redeeming values, I think. Sorry, Terry. The art was nice, though. Can't complain about that. Overall grade: B-.

5) Wolverine cover: Great! A+.

6) Ghosty/Cable cover: Nice art and coloring. A+

Joey Marchese
116 Emerald Place
Clark, NJ 07066

Hey Terry,

Re: MCP #92...

Both covers were interesting, but the Sam Kieth Wolverine under the shredded logo was my personal favorite. Marvel Press really should consider releasing this effort as a poster.

The Ghost Rider/Cable feature is starting to shake free the cloying cobwebs of lethargy that have enveloped it thus far, and I honestly hope "Servants of the Dead" really kicks in and lives up to its potential as a major team-up story. If it does, great. If not, the blame should be placed solely on the shoulders of Mackie and Yap.

I've always considered Northstar a loser of a character and, while Bollers and Matias' story would have worked well with other characters, it didn't work for me on this pompous punk. Also, newcomer Joe Madureira's stuff looks pretty sharp. I hope to see more of his work in the future.

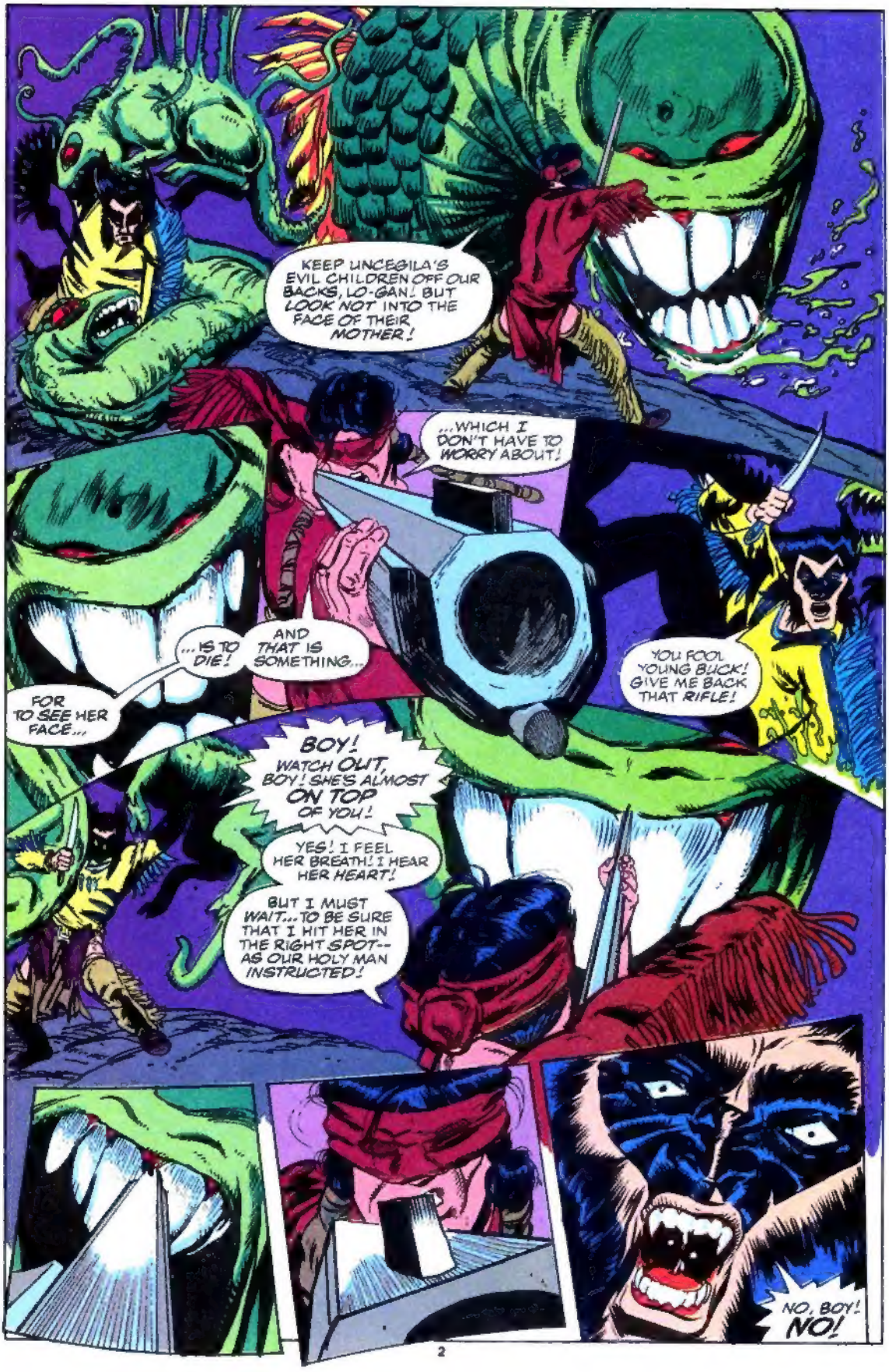
I'm pleased that the Beast feature has finally run its course. It hasn't been bad, but neither has it been good enough to warrant the eight installments it was given. The passage in which the Constrictor and his partner in crime exchanged glances prior to laying into Commander Courage was the highlight of "Just Friends" to me.

And, last but certainly not least, we come to the final chapter in the "Blood Hungry" offering. This has proven to be the most well-written, nicely illustrated Wolverine tale I've ever encountered and I hope to see more Peter David/Sam Kieth offerings, either in the pages of MCP or elsewhere in the near future. Bring on Timothy Truman...

Uncle Elvis
17650 Dawson Rd.
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

We hope you like what you see so far, Elvis.

WOLVERINE
IN:
WILD FRONTIER
CHAPTER 6:
FINAL FRONTIER
I DON'T CARE WHAT THAT OLD HOLY MAN BACK AT CAMP TOLD YOU, SON! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT THING DID TO SPARROW HAWK! AND YOU KNOW THAT IT'S GOTTA PAY!
YOUR WOMAN'S DEAD, LO-GAN-- THAT'S TRUE! SO ARE MANY OF MY PEOPLE. THEY DWELL IN THE LAND BEYOND THE SAND HILLS NOW, CRYING OUT FOR THE BLOOD OF THIS BEAST.
YOU'LL HAVE YOUR REVENGE! BUT WE MUST DO THINGS...
OUT OF THE WAY, BOY! I GOT ME SOME KILLIN' TO DO!
NO, LO-GAN! I IMPLORE YOU! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL THIS CREATURE!
...MY WAY!
WHA--!? HEY, YOU CRAZY, BLIND LITTLE FOOL! YER GONNA GET US BOTH--
--UUHHNGGH!


KEEP UNCEGILA'S EVIL CHILDREN OFF OUR BACKS, LO-GAN! BUT LOOK NOT INTO THE FACE OF THEIR MOTHER!
...WHICH I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT!
YOU FOOL YOUNG BUCK! GIVE ME BACK THAT RIFLE!
AND THAT IS SOMETHING...
...IS TO DIE!
FOR TO SEE HER FACE...
BOY! WATCH OUT, BOY! SHE'S ALMOST ON TOP OF YOU!
YES! I FEEL HER BREATH! I HEAR HER HEART!
BUT I MUST WAIT... TO BE SURE THAT I HIT HER IN THE RIGHT SPOT-- AS OUR HOLY MAN INSTRUCTED!
NO, BOY! NO!

K-KA-BOOM
A-YAAIII!
DIE, MONSTER! AND KNOW THAT IT'S A BLACKFOOT WHO HAS KILLED YOU!
BOY! LOOK OUT!
ARRRHHH...!
BOY!
WELL, I'LL BE...
SKLUNCH

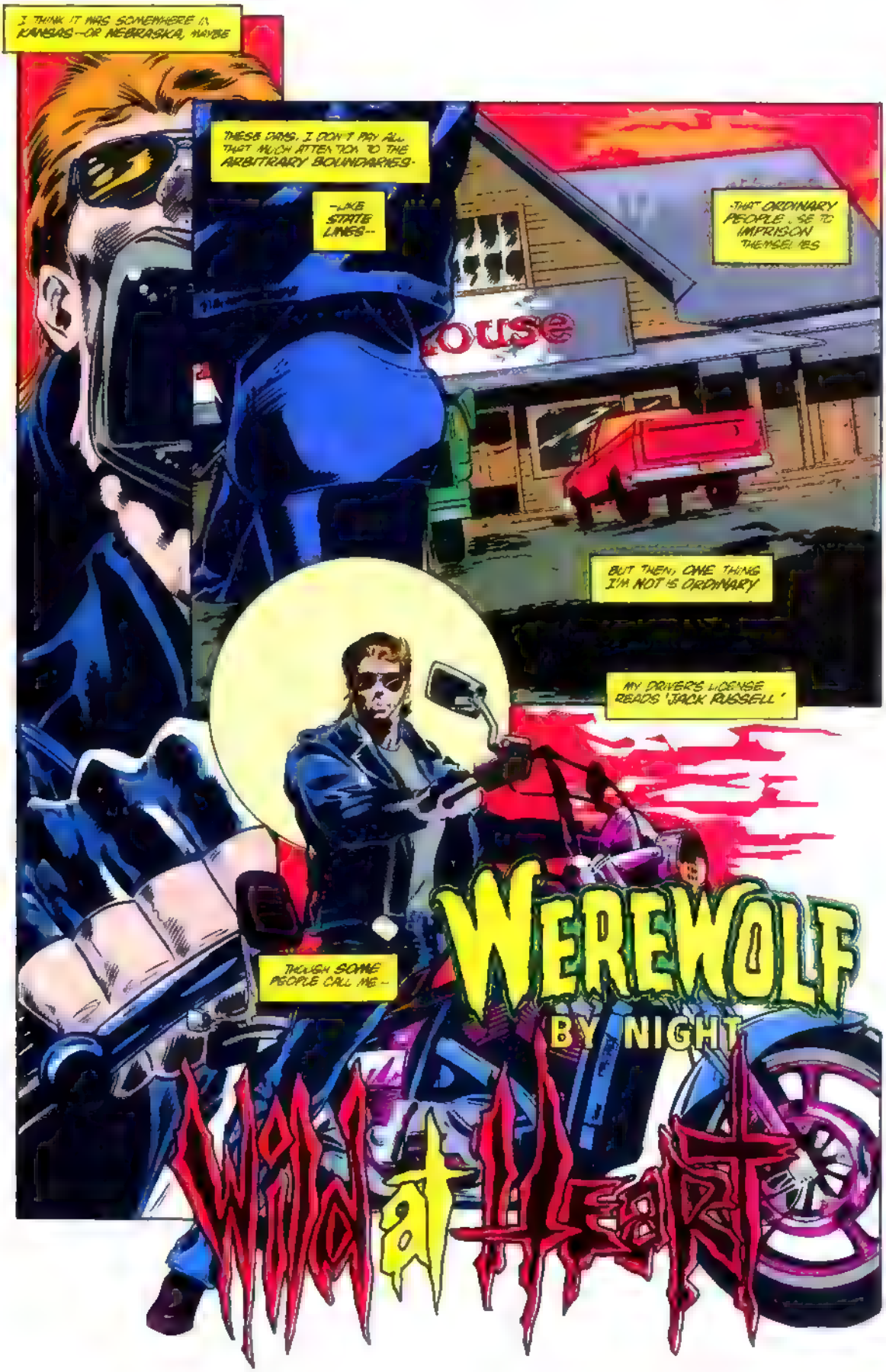
THE KID'S SHOT HAD BEEN A GOOD ONE...
...BUT NOT QUITE GOOD ENOUGH.
DIE, YOU UGLY, MURDERIN' SHE-WORM!
UH-OH...

NO, CANADIAN! YOU AREN'T DOING IT RIGHT! I CAN TELL!
YOU HAD YER CHANCE, BOY! NOW YOU CAN JUST SHUT YER YAPPER!
IT'S TIME WE DID THINGS MY WAY!
LISTEN FOR HER HEART, LO-GAN! IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
YOU MUST STRIKE HER IN THE HEART!
UNNHHHGHHH!
DON'T LOOK AT HER, CANADIAN!
THE HEART! LISTEN FOR HER HEART!
SSSSSSS
SSSSSSS

RRAAARRRRR!
THIS...
...IS FOR MY SPARROW HAWK!
YOU WANTED THIS THING'S HEART, BOY?
WELL HERE IT IS.
LET'S GO HOME, KID.

I TOOK THE BLIND BOY BACK TO THE VILLAGE. TO TELL THE TRUTH, HE WASN'T A BOY ANYMORE. HE HAD WHAT HE WANTED. HE WAS A WARRIOR.
I HAD WHAT I WANTED, TOO. NOW, THERE WAS NOTHIN' LEFT FOR ME HERE. THE LONGER I STAYED, THE EMPTIER I GOT.
IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE.
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WELCOME HERE, CANADIAN. WHEREVER THE YEARS MAY TAKE YOU, REMEMBER THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE A HOME HERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS.
THANKS, CHIEF. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND. ALWAYS.
BY THE WAY, IN CANADA THEY CALL ME LOGAN. YOU CAN FEEL FREE TO CALL ME THE SAME.
WITH OUR PEOPLE, CANADIAN, A MAN MUST HAVE MANY NAMES, SO THAT HIS ENEMIES CAN'T GAIN POWER OVER HIM AND BEWITCH HIM.
WE'VE CHOSEN A GOOD NAME FOR YOU--A NAME OF GREAT POWER. WE WILL CALL YOU... "SKUNK-BEAR!"
WHA--!?
ER...WELL, UH.. I MEAN... THANK YOU, BOYS.
"SKUNK-BEAR." SURE. HAS A CERTAIN-- RING--TO IT, DON'T IT?
I'M GLAD YOU ACCEPT THE NAME. THE CREATURE WE CALL "SKUNK-BEAR" IS A MIGHTY ANIMAL. SMALL, BUT VERY POWERFUL, AND VERY HARD TO KILL.
WHEN ANGERED, IT WILL SHOW ITS CLAWS TO EVEN THE LARGEST ANIMAL. SOME SAY IT CAN NEVER DIE.
I THINK THAT YOU CANADIANS KNOW THIS CREATURE BY ANOTHER NAME.
YOU CALL IT "CARCAJOU."
"CARCAJOU."
THE WOLVERINE.

IT WAS THE SHININ' TIME... AND THE TIME OF ENDING...
THE DAWN BEFORE THE NIGHT...
THE NEVER-TIME...
THE ALWAYS TIME...
SOME SAY THE WOLVERINE CAN NEVER DIE...
THE END


I THINK IT WAS SOMEWHERE IN KANSAS--OR NEBRASKA, MAYBE
THESE DAYS, I DON'T PAY ALL THAT MUCH ATTENTION TO THE ARBITRARY BOUNDARIES-
-LIKE STATE LINES--
-THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE USE TO IMPRISON THEMSELVES
BUT THEN, ONE THING I'M NOT IS ORDINARY
MY DRIVERS LICENSE READS 'JACK RUSSELL'
THOUGH SOME PEOPLE CALL ME -
WEREWOLF
BY NIGHT
Wild at Heart

PLACES LIKE THAT ROADHOUSE ARE WEIRD FOR ME THESE DAYS
MY INSTINCTS, MY BUILT-IN REFLEXES, THE WAY I SEE THE WORLD -- THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY USED TO BE, BACK WHEN I WAS MORE... FULLY HUMAN.
I'M DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW, NOW.*
SOMETIMES, THESE DAYS, I LOOK AROUND ME AND I'M OVERCOME WITH A SUDDEN HORROR, AN INESCAPABLE FEELING OF BEING SURROUNDED BY MEN, MONKEYS.
*SINCE THE FUSION OF JACK'S HUMAN AND WOLF SOULS IN MOP #58 -- TERRY
I SUPPOSE THAT SOUNDS KIND OF, I DON'T KNOW, EGOTISTICAL OR SOMETHING, BUT IT'S TRUE.
ALL THE LITTLE STATUS GAMES, MATING DANCES, SUDDEN BURSTS OF VIOLENCE ...IT'S ALL SO CLEAR AND OBVIOUS TO ME NOW
SOME PLACES, TO ME, ARE LIKE GOING TO THE ZOO.
WHAT'RE YA HAVIN'?
DRAFT

I WATCHED THE DANCERS WITH AN INDIFFERENCE WHICH SURPRISED EVEN ME
I CAN REMEMBER, NOT SO LONG AGO, WHEN THEY WOULD HAVE HAD MY COMPLETE AND UNDIVIDED ATTENTION
NOW, IT'S JUST MORE MONKEY ANTICS.
AND THEN I SAW HIM
I HEAR THEY CALL HIM SABRETOOTH
HE SNEERED BACK AT ME. EACH OF US RECOGNIZING THE OTHER FOR WHAT HE WERE
WOLVES AMONGST THE SHEEP
THEN HE KNOCKED BACK THE REST OF HIS BEER AND CUT OUT, ONE OF THE LOCAL GIRLS IN TOW
AS HE PARADED HER PAST ME ON THE WAY TO THE DOOR HE SHOT ME ANOTHER TOOTH SNARK
THIS ONE WAS A PREDATOR
AND THIS FARMER'S DAUGHTER WAS GOING TO BE HIS NEXT NOTCH!

MAYBE IT WAS REALLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT IT'S CRETINS LIKE SABRETOOTH WHO GAVE THE REST OF US A BAD NAME
IT'S LONG SINCE TIME WE STARTED POLICING OUR OWN
OTHERWISE, HELL
I'VE MET SOME WHO ACTUALLY REMEMBER THE INQUISITION
WELL, ANYWAY, IT WAS UP TO ME TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT
IT WASN'T HARD TO TRACK THEM, BETWEEN HER CHEAP K-MART PERFUME AND THE TANG OF HIS ANTICIPATION.
AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE I HAD THE NEON ARROW OF THE SCENT OF FRESH BLOOD TO FOLLOW
PLEASE... HELP ME
GET LOST, PUNK
GO FIND YER OWN DATE
I THOUGHT I'D AT LEAST GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE REASONABLE
I ONLY SHIFTED PARTWAY TO WOLF-FORM
I DON'T THINK THE LADY'S ENJOYING YOUR COMPANY
I THINK MAYBE YOU SHOULD HIT THE ROAD
NOW.

NAH I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT IT TO WORK, EITHER
BOY, YOU JUST DON'T REALIZE WHO YOU'RE DEALIN' WITH!
MAYBE NOT
BUT THEN--
--NEITHER--
--TO YOU
:HURRK:
RRRURH!
EITHER WALK
--OR BE CARRIED
CHECK A BOX

I'M GOING TO SLOW YOU DOWN!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY
HERR
RRRR
RRRRR
RRRRR
RRRR
RRRRRRRR
RRRRAARGH!
RRRURRAARGH!
OH DEAR LORD!
CRNCH

WHOK!
RRURGH
YER BIGGER'N ME--
--AN' MAYBE STRONGER--
BUT BOY, YOU AIN'T NEVER GONNA BE MEANER!
RIGHT.
AND YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE YOU-- AND PINHEADS LIKE YOU --MAKE ME SICK!
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON TO LET YOU LIVE
GET STUFFED
WRONG ANSWER
YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS
WRONG AGAIN
RRRAARGH
BLAM
SHOOT!
GET A LOAD OF THAT THING!
IF THAT AIN'T THE ...GLIEST CRITTER I EVER SEEN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!
AIN'T DEAD YET, NEITHER.

MORONS
HHH-RRURRHH
OKAY, A LOT.
ENOUGH TO MAKE ME THINK, WHO NEEDS THIS?!
THEY COULD HAVE SABRETOOTH
THEY DESERVED EACH OTHER
HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
SHOOT!
LOOKIT 'IM GO!
THEY FIGURED SABRETOOTH FOR THE GOOD GUY, JUST BECAUSE HE LOOKED MORE LIKE THEM THAN I DID
AT LEAST THE BULLET WASN'T SILVER, SO IT DIDN'T DO ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE
JUST STUNG A LITTLE
JARRRHHH
I NEVER SEEN THE LIKE!
GOTTA BE CAREFUL
MONSTERS ... THEY JUST KEEP TURN UP ALMOST ANYWHERE
AFTER I HEALED, I GOT INTO A SET OF UNSHREDDED CLOTHES AND HIT THE INTERSTATE AGAIN
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THE NEXT TOWN OVER MIGHT BE BETTER
IF NOTHING ELSE, THAT'D BE DIFFERENT
END

MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
GHOST RIDER
$1.50 US
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98
UK 80p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry,

Status Report #92:

Ghost Rider and Cable: Never let spirits of vengeance drive drunk. Oh, I guess Ghost Rider wasn't drinking when he and Cable went over the edge, were they? The storyline doesn't seem to be going very far, very fast. With the exception of a few dramatic stunts, such as the "chain bridge," very little has gone on. I'm curious—does Cable ever run out of ammo? Or does he house an interior power source—since his guns appear to be energy rather than projectile? Guang Yap's art resembles Don Perlin's old days on WEREWOLF BY NIGHT. Not bad, merely mediocre. I'll be back for more. No bones about it. 2 1/4 Chain Links!

Northstar: You're talkin' to an Alpha Flight fanatic. The story and art were perfect. Joe Madureira will be big one day and, with Marvel expanding its monthly circulation of hits, Lord knows we'll need the new talent to keep those new titles aloft. Give us more Alphan solos. Give us Puck or Windshear. 3 Speeding Tickets!

Wolverine: What a battle! What? A battle? Wolvie actually fared better than anticipated. Eye was caught off guard. Eye bet Cyber was, too. Cyber thought he was invulnerable. He never considered the possibility that his vulnerability was looking him right in the eye(s). The battle wasn't quite as fierce as I'd hoped for. The one thing that stunned me was the entire battle took place in the treetops. I would stay on the ground and play lumberjack one tree at a time until Wolverine was down. We haven't seen the last of Cyber, I hope. I know!

The poor wolf had to die, didn't he? Logan could have left him at Tyger's side for protection while he was gone. Coy and Tyger argue over ping pong? What's going on in Peter David's mind? Did some of that hallucinogen splash into Peter's coffee mug? 3 Claws!

Beast. Very impressive, Scott and Jae! Not only have you shown us how worthy the Beast is to get his own series, but you've turned the Constrictor into a great semi-hero. Here's a thought: Why not try out Constrictor as an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.? I could see he and Fury locking horns.

I laughed out loud when Hank programmed the wereborgs to start dancing. Commander Courage was a true sicko and I'm glad he bit the dust. Now tell me this: The circuit Hank installed into Jennifer was from Courage, will Courage's mental imprint take over Jennifer's body like a virus?

Here's to the future. To Scott and Jae's careers and to BEAST #1. 3 Claws!

Covers: Wolverine: Awesome! 3 Claws! Ghost Rider/Cable: 2 Claws!

Len Biehl
1237 Pinoak
Rantoul, IL 61866

Boy, You bring up a lot of questions, Len. We'll try to answer them to the best of our ability. We're not sure, but we think Cable uses ammo that's stored extradimensionally and summoned psionically with that headgear he wears (pretty good, huh?). As we said last issue, you can see Marvel's own new kid on the block, Joe Madureira, doing one of your favorite Alphans, Puck, in issue #99—hey, that's two weeks from now! No, we don't think Peter drank any of that hallucinogen Wolvie got—but his almost-incoherent stories may be due to the weird sleeping hours caused by his new daughter, Ariel (Congrats, Peter!)! We'll think about putting Constrictor in S.H.I.E.L.D... And, lastly, it remains to be seen what will happen to Jennifer—guess you'll have to keep reading.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS GHOST RIDER

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.
GHOST RIDER 1
D'SPRYTE TIMES, D'SPRYTE MEASURES
Part 1 of 2

When innocent blood is spilled, Danny Ketch finds himself transformed into the Spirit of Vengeance — Ghost Rider!

Writer — DAN SLOTT
Artist — JIMMY PALMIOTTI
Letterer — JANICE CHIANG
Colorist — FRED MENDEZ

pg.
GLADIATOR 9
"WORTHY OF THE NAME"

His name is Melvin Potter, once known as the super-villain called the Gladiator. You think of a gladiator as being a good guy, a knight in shining armor, someone who saves lives...well, this one almost ended a few. Now he's just a working joe, trying to keep clean...

Writer —SCOTT BENSON
Artist — JOHN STANISCI
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — FREDDY MENDEZ

NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE BATTLES NIGHTMARE IN A PRELUDE TO OUR SPECTACULAR 100TH ISSUE! ALSO: GHOST RIDER'S SHOWDOWN WITH THE D'SPRYTES! PUCK IS TAKEN FOR A RIDE IN ARCADE'S MURDERWORLD! AND, SPIDER-MAN AND MJ IN "HAS ANYBODY SEEN ANY LOVE?"

CITY PEOPLE HAVE AN UNSEEN DIAL LIKE A RADIO TUNER
THERE'S THIS GUY IN HADES ... AND HE'S GOT THIS BIG ROCK
HOW SHOULD I KNOW HOW BIG?
SO, HE'S GOT TO PUSH IT TO THE TOP OF THIS BIG FREAKIN' HILL
FINE ADJUSTMENT TURNS ALL THE UNPLEASANT SIGHTS AND SOUNDS INTO BACKGROUND NOISE.
BECAUSE HE'S IN HADES NOW SHUT IT.
ANYWAY, RIGHT BEFORE HE GETS TO THE TOP, GUESS WHAT HAPPENS?
THEN THERE'RE SOME LIKE JACK WEAVER, WHO CAN TUNE INTO SPECIAL WAVELENGTHS
RIGHT ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM, EVERY TIME
HOMELESS COLD AND HUNGRY Please Help!
WELL, I'M ASKING- WHY PUSH IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
SEEING AND HEARING THINGS NO ONE ELSE CAN.
D'SPRYTE TIMES, D'SPRYTE MEASURES
GUESS HE'D GO CRAZY DOING NOTHING.
AMEN TO THAT, BUDDY!
GHOST RIDER

HEY JACK, CHECK OUT THIS SWELL IN THE ARMANI!
THERE'S AT LEAST A DIME IN HIM.
MAYBE A QUARTER
SIR, SPARE SOME CHANGE, PLEASE COLD DAY SIR
HAKK PTEW
GET A JOB
WHY THAT SUNNUVA..
HOMELESS COLD AND HUNGRY Please Help
SAY THE WORD, JACK! I'LL GET 'IM! GET 'IM GOOD!
YESS, JACK? YESSS*
YEAH

HALF A BLOCK AWAY...
IT JUST DOESN'T STOP! GHOST RIDER'S TAKING UP ALL MY TIME!
WHAT WITH GOING AFTER ZODIAK, SNOWBLIND, AND DEATHWATCH*, THERE'S BEEN NO CHANCE FOR DAN KETCH TO HAVE ANY SEMBLANCE OF A LIFE!
I'M EVEN BEGINNING TO THINK OF MYSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON! NOW THAT IS SAD!
*SEE GRs #19-23 -- TERRY
UP AHEAD ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE BLOCKING THE STREET
WONDER WHAT THE BIG ATTRACTION IS.
ON THAT LEDGE, A JUMPER!
WHY AM I UP HERE? WHAT AM I DOING?!
YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE A HORRID AND PATHETIC LITTLE MAN.
YOU'RE HERE TO JUMP
GHOST RIDER COULD GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE!
BUT SINCE HE'LL ONLY COME WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD'S BEEN SPILT...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANUFACTURE SOME OF MY OWN
SLAP
TOUCHING HIS BLOODY HAND TO HIS BIKE'S MYSTIC TALISMAN, DAN KETCH FINDS HIMSELF

UNCHANGED
C'MON! GHOST RIDER CAN RIDE UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND SAVE HIM!
AND ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH!
JUMP!
YOU HAVE NOTHING!
JUMP!
NO ONE CARES
JUMP!
NO.
SO CHANGE BLAST IT!
SLAP
CHANGE!
YOUR WORLD IS EMPTY!
YOUR LIFE IS PAIN!
DO IT!
JUMP!
C'MON!
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
RELAX
NO WORRIES
NO PRESSURES
GO ON..

JUMP
AHHHHH
NO!
WAKK
"... HE'LL ONLY COME WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD'S BEEN SPILT."
NO! THIS ISN'T FAIRRRRR

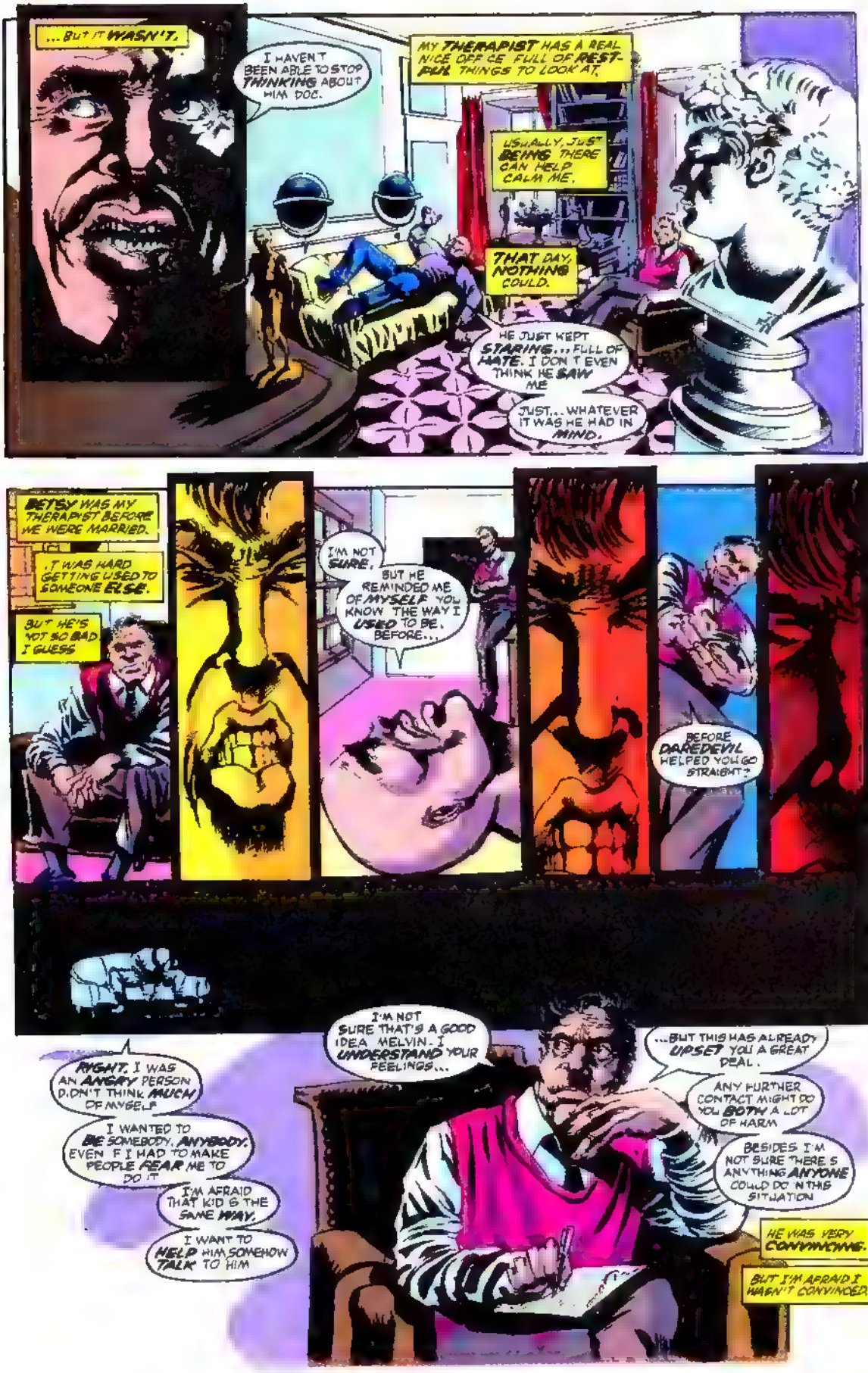
RRRRRR
NO DANIEL, IT IS NOT FAIR BUT IN A FAIR WORLD, THERE WOULD BE NO PLACE FOR
VENGEANCE!
FWOOSH!

HEHHEH
URKK!
INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILT AND I SENSE YOUR HANDIWORK IN IT
VENGEANCE SHALL BE SERVED.
THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, SPIRIT!
I'M O'SPRYTE, SERVANT OF O'SPAYRE.
MINE IS BUT ONE OF THE WHISPERS FROM THE DARKNESS
WHEREVER THERE'S A BROKEN WILL WHOSE PLEAS ARE VOICED INTO THE ETHER, THERE WILL BE A O'SPRYTE.
MY KIND IS LEGION
EH?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FL

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF YOUR KIND!
NO MATTER!
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
NOTHING SHALL KEEP ME FROM METING OUT VENGEANCE!
RUNCH
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE:
FALLEN SPIRITS

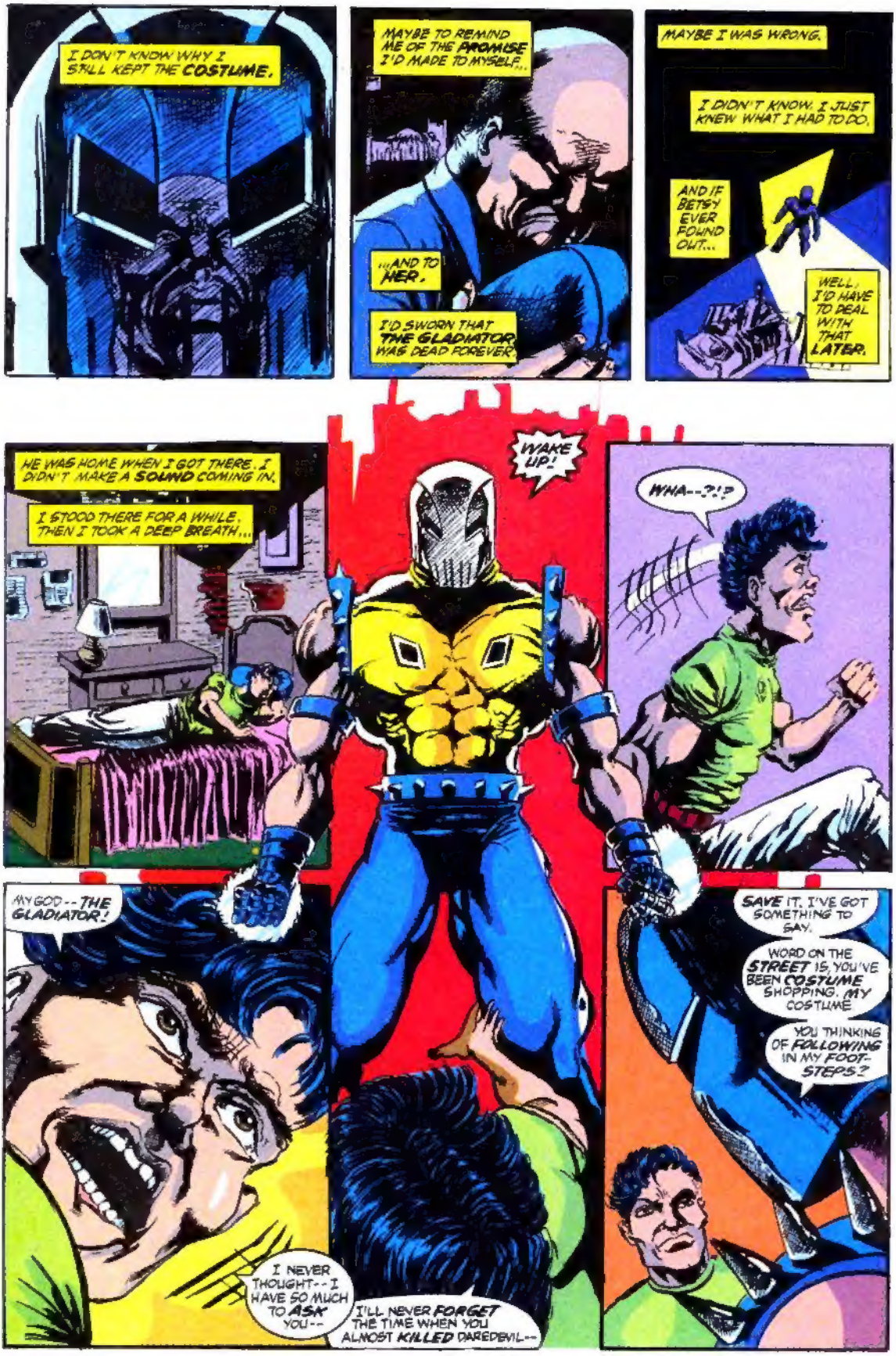
WORTHY OF THE NAME!
featuring
THE GLADIATOR
MY NAME IS MELVIN POTTER, I USED TO BE A SUPER-VILLAIN CALLED THE GLADIATOR.
YOU THINK OF A GLADIATOR AS A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR, SOMEONE WHO FIGHTS FOR GOOD AND SAVES LIVES.
WELL, THIS ONE ALMOST ENDED A FEW INCLUDING HIS OWN
THESE DAYS, I'M JUST A WORKING JOE I MARRIED THE GREATEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD AND WE RUN A COSTUME SHOP THAT KEEPS US EATING. I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD LIFE
ONCE, I WAS FULL OF PLANS AND SCHEMES, TACTICS AND STRATEGIES. NOW I JUST TAKE THEM ONE DAY AT A TIME.
OF COURSE SOME DAYS ARE EASIER THAN OTHERS...
MEL? YOU OKAY?

SURE BETS. JUST CHECKING FOR OUR CUSTOMERS.
GUESS NOBODY WANTS A COSTUME AT NINE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, HUH?
OH I'LL PICK UP IT ALWAYS DOES.
THAT'S WHEN HE WALKED IN
DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THE TYPE WHO WANTED A CLOWN SUIT FOR A KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM MADE ME NERVOUS. I DON'T KNOW WHY.
I HEAR YOU MAKE SUPER HERO COSTUMES!
BEST IN THE BUSINESS.
LET ME GUESS--A PARTY RIGHT?
NOT EXACTLY
I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY HE SAID THAT
BUT I'M A GOOD SHOPKEEPER.
SO, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I GOT HIS NAME AND ADDRESS FOR MY MAILING LIST.
YOU'VE HEARD OF THE GLADIATOR, RIGHT?
I WAS SPEECHLESS, I THINK I MUMBLED SOMETHING
I WANT HIS COSTUME.
WITH WORKING BLADES
JUST LIKE THE REAL THING.
EXCEPT I WANT IT ALL BLACK.
I'M SORRY, I--I CAN'T DO THAT
I WON'T DO THAT.
PLEASE LEAVE MY STORE
I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOSE MY TEMPER AT HIM.
HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HATE LIKE THAT IN ANYONE'S EYES ... NOT EVEN IN PRISON.
HE TURNED RIGHT AROUND AND LEFT.
THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF IT

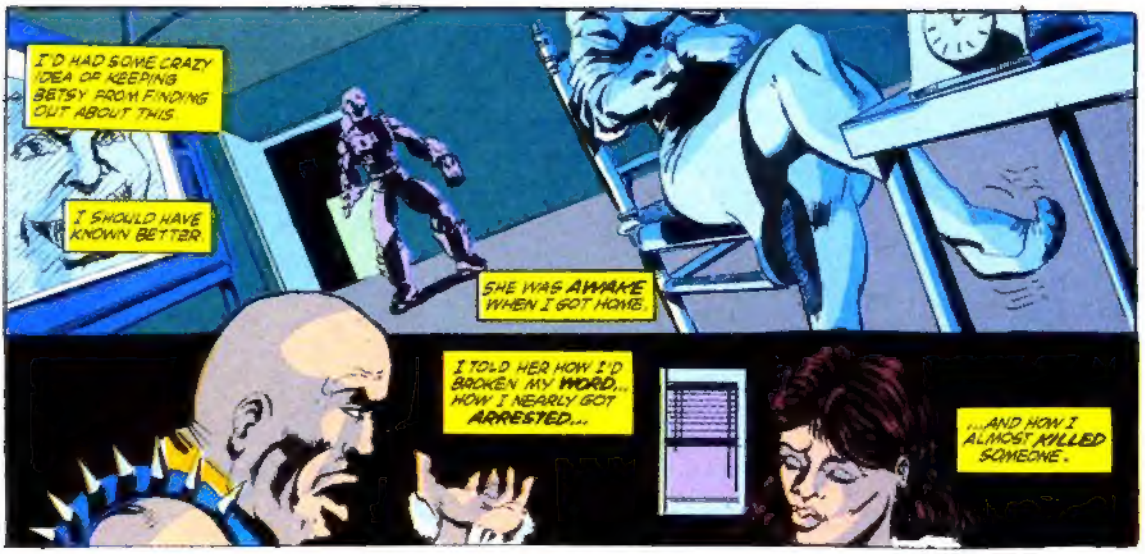

...BUT IT WASN'T.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM DOC.
MY THERAPIST HAS A REAL NICE OFFICE FULL OF RESTFUL THINGS TO LOOK AT.
USUALLY, JUST BEING THERE CAN HELP CALM ME.
THAT DAY, NOTHING COULD.
HE JUST KEPT STARING... FULL OF HATE. I DON'T EVEN THINK HE SAW ME
JUST... WHATEVER IT WAS HE HAD IN MIND.
BETSY WAS MY THERAPIST BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED.
IT WAS HARD GETTING USED TO SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT HE'S NOT SO BAD I GUESS
I'M NOT SURE, BUT HE REMINDED ME OF MYSELF. YOU KNOW THE WAY I USED TO BE, BEFORE...
BEFORE DAREDEVIL HELPED YOU GO STRAIGHT?
I'M NOT SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA MELVIN. I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS...
...BUT THIS HAS ALREADY UPSET YOU A GREAT DEAL.
ANY FURTHER CONTACT MIGHT DO YOU BOTH A LOT OF HARM
BESIDES I'M NOT SURE THERE'S ANYTHING ANYONE COULD DO IN THIS SITUATION
HE WAS VERY CONVINCING.
BUT I'M AFRAID I WASN'T CONVINCED.
RIGHT. I WAS AN ANGRY PERSON. I DON'T THINK MUCH OF MYSELF.
I WANTED TO BE SOMEBODY. ANYBODY. EVEN IF I HAD TO MAKE PEOPLE FEAR ME TO DO IT.
I'M AFRAID THAT KID IS THE SAME WAY.
I WANT TO HELP HIM. SOMEHOW. TALK TO HIM

FINDING THE KID'S APARTMENT WAS EASY. I HAD MY MAILING LIST.
BREAKING INTO THE PLACE WAS EVEN EASIER. SOME THINGS YOU NEVER FORGET
THE HARD PART WAS TELLING MYSELF I WASN'T MAKING THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE.
BUT ONCE INSIDE, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT.
ALL I COULD DO WAS STARE AT THE CLIPPINGS
"ELDERLY LADY RAPED AND MURDERED..."
"CONVENIENCE STORE HOLDUP; 3 DEAD..."
"REMAINS OF SIX CHILDREN FOUND BURIED..."
HE HAD THE WORST ONES HIGHLIGHTED.
AND THEN THERE WERE THE PICTURES.
MINE WAS A BIG FULL-COLOR SHOT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE GOT IT.
HE HAD PICTURES OF SUPER-VILLAINS DISPLAYED PROUDLY
HIS FEELINGS ABOUT HEROES WERE PRETTY CLEAR TOO.
I WAS SHAKING LIKE A LEAF.
THE KID WAS A DISASTER LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO
JUST LIKE I'D BEEN
I WONDERED WHERE HE WAS.
I IMAGINED WHAT HE MIGHT BE DOING
IT WASN'T PRETTY
THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
BUT I HAD TO TRY.

I WAS FULL OF RIGHTEOUS DETERMINATION AS I LEFT THE PLACE.
THAT IS, OF COURSE, UNTIL I SAW THE COP.
MAYBE, I THOUGHT, MAYBE HE'LL KEEP LOOKING THE OTHER WAY LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CLEAR OUT...
...THEN AGAIN, MAYBE NOT.
HEY!
I WAS DRESSED IN BLACK. I WAS WEARING A MASK.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT I DID.
FREEZE, YOU BOZO!
I TOOK OFF LIKE THE THIEF WE THOUGHT I WAS... CALLING MYSELF EVERY NAME I DESERVED.
I FOUND A PLACE TO HIDE, HOPING TO LOSE HIM.
MAYBE I DID, OR MAYBE HE DECIDED I WASN'T WORTH IT.
THEY SAY GOD LOOKS AFTER FOOLS. I GUESS I QUALIFIED.
I CAME THAT CLOSE TO GETTING A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AT MY WIFE'S SIDE.
I COULDN'T.
CALL IT STUPIDITY, OR STUBBORNESS. CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE. I HAD TO SEE THIS THING THROUGH...
...OR I'D NEVER GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AGAIN.


I DON'T KNOW WHY I STILL KEPT THE COSTUME.
MAYBE TO REMIND ME OF THE PROMISE I'D MADE TO MYSELF...
...AND TO HER.
I'D SWORN THAT THE GLADIATOR WAS DEAD FOREVER.
MAYBE I WAS WRONG.
I DIDN'T KNOW. I JUST KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO.
AND IF BETSY EVER FOUND OUT...
WELL, I'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT LATER.
HE WAS HOME WHEN I GOT THERE. I DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND COMING IN.
I STOOD THERE FOR A WHILE. THEN I TOOK A DEEP BREATH...
WAKE UP!
WHA--?!?
MY GOD -- THE GLADIATOR!
I NEVER THOUGHT -- I HAVE SO MUCH TO ASK YOU --
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE TIME WHEN YOU ALMOST KILLED DAREDEVIL--
SAVE IT. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY.
WORD ON THE STREET IS, YOU'VE BEEN COSTUME SHOPPING. MY COSTUME
YOU THINKING OF FOLLOWING IN MY FOOT-STEPS?

WELL, YOU CAN FORGET IT. THIS IS NO KIND OF LIFE FOR ANYONE.
I FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY.
THERE'S NO GLORY TO THIS--JUST RUNNING AND HIDING, INFLICTING PAIN ON OTHERS TILL IT STARTS TO EAT YOU UP INSIDE.
OTHERS? WHEN DID ANYONE ELSE EVER CARE ABOUT ME?
I WANNA KILL 'EM ALL!
MAYBE IT WAS ALL THE TENSION I'D BEEN THROUGH.
I LOST MY TEMPER.
THAT'S IT, OLD MAN. USE THOSE BLADES AND LEMME OUTTA THIS PLACE!
OR ARE YOU SCARED?
WHAT WAS I DOING?
I DROPPED HIM LIKE A STONE.
I STOOD SHIVERING, UNABLE TO BELIEVE WHAT I'D ALMOST DONE.
WHILE HE SAT THERE, SMEERING.
YEAH, I'M SCARED. SCARED OF TURNING BACK INTO SOMETHING LIKE YOU.
YOU CAN'T KILL YOUR PROBLEMS, KID. THEY ALWAYS COME BACK.
YOU THINK ABOUT THAT.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD HIM IN THE AIR...
...AND MY BLADES WERE GOING.
WHIRRRR
I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU, YOU LITTLE PUNK!
THERE WASN'T MUCH ELSE TO SAY.
I LEFT.


I'D HAD SOME CRAZY IDEA OF KEEPING BETSY FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT THIS.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.
SHE WAS AWAKE WHEN I GOT HOME.
I TOLD HER HOW I'D BROKEN MY WORD,... HOW I NEARLY GOT ARRESTED...
...AND HOW I ALMOST KILLED SOMEONE.

I TRIED TO EXPLAIN WHY. IT DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE, THE WAY I TOLD IT.
SHE LOOKED AT ME FOR A LONG TIME.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE DO THINGS THEY HAVE TO DO, MEL, EVEN WHEN IT'S CRAZY.
SOMETIMES IT'S EVEN THE RIGHT THING.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU DID ANY GOOD TONIGHT,...
...BUT I KNOW WHY YOU TRIED.
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN AND I LOVE YOU.
LET'S GET SOME SLEEP, HUH?

MY NAME IS MELVIN POTTER AND I USED TO CALL MYSELF THE GLADIATOR.

THAT NIGHT, I FELT JUST A LITTLE MORE WORTHY OF THE NAME.

THE END.